REMARKS

This Response is filed in reply to the Office Action dated February 24, 2004. In this Response, Applicant traverses the Examiner's rejections. Silence with regard to any of the Examiner's rejections is not an acquiescence to such rejections. Specifically, silence with regard to Examiner's rejection of a dependent claim is not an acquiescence to such rejection of the dependent claim(s), but rather a recognition by Applicant that such rejection is moot based on Applicant's remarks regarding the allowability of the independent claim from which the dependent claim(s) depends. Applicant reserves the option to further prosecute the same or similar claims in the instant or a subsequent application. Claims 1-20 are pending in the present application.

The issues of the February 24, 2004, Office Action are presented below with reference to the Office Action.

<u>With regard to the Office Action, paragraphs 1-6</u>: The Applicant thanks the Examiner for the careful consideration of the previously filed Response.

<u>With regard to the Office Action, paragraphs 7-14 and 29-32</u>: The Examiner rejected Applicant's claims 1-14 based on 35 U.S.C. 112. Applicant thanks the Examiner for the finding of allowable subject matter in independent claims 1 and 14. Applicant further thanks the Examiner for the careful reading of Applicant's claims, and Applicant amends independent claims 1 and 14 to specifically state the otherwise inherent meaning that the "selective coupling" is *"feedforward circuitry selective coupling."*

Based on the amendment to independent claims 1 and 14, Applicant traverses the Examiner's 35 U.S.C. 112 rejections of independent claims 1 and 14, and considers independent claims 1 and 14 to be allowable. Applicant accordingly also traverses the Examiner's 35 U.S.C. 112 rejections of dependent claims 2-13, and considers dependent claims 2-13 to also be allowable as depending from allowable independent claim 1.

<u>With regard to the Office Action, paragraphs 16-19</u>: The Examiner rejected Applicant's independent claim 15 under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) based on Kurita (U.S. 6,163,186).

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Solely in the interest of expediting prosecution, Applicant amends independent claim 15 to include the subject matter deemed allowable by the Examiner in paragraphs 29-32 of the present Office Action, specifically, *said feedforward correction circuit selectively coupling at least one circuit element to said PLL circuit, wherein said feedforward correction circuit selective coupling is controlled by said clock detection circuit output.*

Based on the incorporation of allowable subject matter into independent claim 15, Applicant traverses the Examiner's 35 U.S.C. 102(b) rejection of independent claim 15, and considers independent claim 15 to be allowable.

<u>With regard to the Office Action, paragraphs 21-28:</u> The Examiner rejected Applicant's claims 16-20 under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) based on Tononaka et al. (U.S. 6,173,023). Applicant respectfully disagrees with the Examiner's interpretation of Tononaka et al.

Applicant's independent claim 16 recites detecting a failure of a clock source, where the clock source is coupled to an input of a phase-locked loop, and *applying a control signal to said PLL in response to said failure of said clock source, said control signal altering a time constant within said PLL.*

In paragraph 21 of the present application, in rejecting the Applicant's claim, the Examiner references Figure 14 of Tononaka et al. and states that "when a clock is down, 102 will be told to select a different clock by 115. When 102 selects a different clock, PLL's time constant has been altered." Applicant disagrees with such interpretation, and requests that the Examiner provide a reference to Tononaka et al. that indicates that a time constant is changed in Tononaka et al.'s PLL merely by changing the input to the PLL, for it is well known that merely changing an input to a PLL *does not* change the PLL's time constant.

Applicant considers that there is no teaching in Tononaka et al. that describes the changing of a time constant of the PLL. Applicant directs the Examiner to Col. 2, lines 49-51, where Tononaka et al. describe the Tononaka et al. circuit: "a PLL section *for generating an equipment clock by synchronizing to the timing source selected* and output from the timing source switching section." (emphasis provided by Applicant.) The output of the PLL thus changes as the input changes, with the PLL synchronizing to the different input as the input changes. This is typical PLL operation. In contrast to Applicant's independent claim 16 which includes a *control signal that changes the time constant,* Tononaka et al. clearly teach it is the

input to the PLL that changes, and *not* a control signal as claimed by Applicant, and further, Tononaka et al. fail to teach that such input can or does change the PLL time constant, as claimed in Applicant's independent claim 16.

Applicant respectfully requests that the Examiner consider that there is a difference between the input to a PLL (e.g., Tononaka et al.'s clock), and Applicant's claimed control signal that affects a time constant of the PLL. Merely changing the input or input frequency to the PLL <u>does not</u> alter the time constant of the PLL. In other words, the PLL may react with the same time constant, regardless of the input.

Applicant also notes that an electronic word search of Tononaka et al. reveals no mention of "time constant" in Tononaka et al., and thus, no mention of changing the PLL's time constant as claimed by Applicant's independent claim 16.

Because Tononaka et al. merely teach changing the input to a PLL, and do not teach a control signal, and further, because nowhere do Tononaka et al. teach that the Tononaka et al. input has any relationship to the PLL's time constant, Tononaka et al. *do not teach* Applicant's claimed *control signal altering a time constant within said PLL*. Applicant thus traverses the Examiner's 35 U.S.C. 102(b) rejection of independent claim 16, and considers independent claim 16 to be allowable. Applicant accordingly also traverses the Examiner's rejections of dependent claims 17-20, and consider claims 17-20 to be allowable, because claims 17-20 depend from allowable independent claim 16.
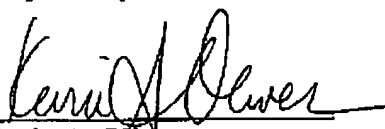
Conclusion

Applicant considers the Response herein to be fully responsive to the referenced Office Action. Based on the above Remarks, it is respectfully submitted that this application is in condition for allowance. Accordingly, allowance is requested. If there are any remaining issues or the Examiner believes that a telephone conversation with Applicant's attorney would be helpful in expediting the prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to call the undersigned at 617-832-1241.

Respectfully submitted,

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